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USDA - NASS
Louisiana Field Office
 5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896
 (225) 922-1362

In cooperation with:
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

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Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 600,000 pounds, down 14 percent from June and 25 percent below the previous year.

There were 800 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, down 100 head from June but up 100 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 767 pounds, down 2 pounds from the previous month and 155 pounds below July 2005. Total live weight, at 579,000 pounds, was 12 percent below the previous month and 15 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during July totaled 200 head, unchanged from June but 400 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 496 pounds, up 41 pounds from June but 18 pounds below July 2005. Total live weight, at 112,000 pounds, was up 42 percent from June but 61 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,000 head, down 200 head from the previous month and the previous year. Average live weight was 183 pounds, down 8 pounds from June but 1 pound above the previous year. Total live weight was 182,000 pounds, down 23 percent from June and 20 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 100 head, unchanged from June and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 79 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous month but 6 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July, up 5 percent from the 3.61 billion pounds produced in July 2005.

July 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. July 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.2 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from July 2005. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from the previous year, at 1,272 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.0 million pounds, 4 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 57,900 head, down 1 percent from July 2005. The average live weight was 10 pounds below last year, at 340 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.88 million head, 3 percent above July 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from July 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,100 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2006 commercial red meat production was 27.1 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year; veal was down 4 percent; pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

| Item | Louisiana | | | | | United States | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------|------|----------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| | June | July | | January - July | | July | | January - July | |
| | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 |
| | Number, thousand head | | | | | Number, thousand head | | | |
| Cattle | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 7.8 | 5.2 | 2,717.5 | 2,834.3 | 18,604.8 | 19,479.6 |
| Calves | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 1.9 | 58.6 | 57.9 | 435.2 | 388.9 |
| Hogs | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 12.0 | 10.1 | 7,662.2 | 7,884.8 | 58,230.4 | 58,924.2 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 199.9 | 202.1 | 1,554.0 | 1,564.1 |
| | Total live weight, thousand pounds | | | | | Total live weight, thousand pounds | | | |
| Cattle | 661 | 678 | 579 | 6,893 | 4,175 | 3,406,482 | 3,604,618 | 23,091,733 | 24,627,792 |
| Calves | 79 | 284 | 112 | 1,513 | 1,022 | 20,549 | 19,663 | 150,864 | 142,187 |
| Hogs | 236 | 227 | 182 | 2,363 | 2,016 | 2,025,470 | 2,090,113 | 15,674,826 | 15,949,137 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 10 | 8 | 10 | 113 | 93 | 26,801 | 26,465 | 215,596 | 219,779 |
| | Average live weight, pounds | | | | | Average live weight, pounds | | | |
| Cattle | 769 | 922 | 767 | 884 | 803 | 1,254 | 1,272 | 1,241 | 1,264 |
| Calves | 455 | 514 | 496 | 504 | 538 | 350 | 340 | 347 | 366 |
| Hogs | 191 | 182 | 183 | 197 | 200 | 264 | 265 | 269 | 271 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 83 | 73 | 79 | 103 | 103 | 134 | 131 | 139 | 140 |
| | Million pounds | | | | | Million pounds | | | |
| Red Meat | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 7.1 | 4.9 | 3,613.6 | 3,782.0 | 32,858.7 | 27,050.9 |

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 30,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006, up 25 percent from July 10-16, 2005. Of the 30,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 80 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 20 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$8.52 per hour compared to \$7.85 per hour in July 2005. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.22 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$9.03 per hour compared to \$7.80 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.06, or 47 cents more per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 40.0 hours per week, was 0.9 hour less per week than the current U.S. average of 40.9 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1,202,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 11 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 327,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.74 per hour during the July 2006 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.95 per hour, up 34 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.56 per hour compared with \$9.26 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.10 per hour, was up 32 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

| Item | Delta ¹ | | | United States | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| | July 2005 | April 2006 | July 2006 | July 2005 | April ² 2006 | July 2006 |
| | ----- Thousand Workers ----- | | | ----- Thousand Workers ----- | | |
| Hired Workers (All) | 24 | 34 | 30 | 1,344 | 961 | 1,202 |
| Ag Service Workers | --- | --- | --- | 408 | 241 | 327 |
| Hired Farm Workers | 24 | 34 | 30 | 936 | 720 | 875 |
| 150 Days or More | 19 | 26 | 24 | 662 | 581 | 630 |
| 149 Days or Less | 5 | 8 | 6 | 274 | 139 | 245 |
| | ----- Per Week ----- | | | ----- Per Week ----- | | |
| Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers) | 38.0 | 40.6 | 40.0 | 40.6 | 40.8 | 40.9 |
| | ----- Per Hour ----- | | | ----- Per Hour ----- | | |
| Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers) | \$7.85 | \$8.00 | \$8.52 | \$9.38 | \$9.78 | \$9.74 |
| By Type of Worker | | | | | | |
| Field | \$7.59 | \$7.64 | \$8.06 | \$8.61 | \$8.95 | \$8.95 |
| Livestock | \$7.80 | \$8.15 | \$9.03 | \$9.26 | \$9.31 | \$9.56 |

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

² Revised.

--- Data not published.

Prices Received Index Up 3 Points

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 120 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points from July. The Crop Index was up 3 points and the Livestock Index increased 5 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, broilers, tomatoes and eggs. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, sorghum grain and potatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change, based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, calves and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, broilers and canteloupe.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 4 points from August 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 124, increased 6 points from last month and 5 points from August 2005.

Prices Paid Index is Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 148 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from July but 7 points above August 2005. Higher prices for diesel fuel, LP gas, complete feeds and feed supplements offset lower prices in August for nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, self-propelled machinery and feed concentrates.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

| Item | Louisiana | | | United States | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | Entire Month | | Preliminary | Entire Month | | Preliminary |
| | August 2005 | July 2006 | August 2006 ¹ | August 2005 | July 2006 | August 2006 ¹ |
| | -----Dollars----- | | | -----Dollars----- | | |
| Soybeans, per bushel | 6.17 | 5.81 | 5.64 | 6.15 | 5.61 | 5.24 |
| Rice, per cwt | 6.43 | 8.69 | 8.78 | 6.58 | 8.16 | 8.19 |
| Upland cotton, per pound | .398 | .464 | .459 ² | .421 | .471 | .472 ² |
| Hay, all, baled, per ton | n/a | n/a | n/a | 99.70 | 107.00 | 106.00 |
| Beef Cattle, per cwt ³ | 70.20 | 63.20 | 65.50 | 84.40 | 86.10 | 87.70 |
| Steers & Heifers, per cwt | 102.00 | 102.00 | 102.00 | 87.70 | 90.40 | 91.80 |
| Cows, per cwt ⁴ | 51.50 | 43.20 | 44.00 | 51.40 | 46.60 | 46.90 |
| Calves, per cwt | 121.00 | 116.00 | 119.00 | 133.00 | 136.00 | 134.00 |
| Broilers, live, per pound | n/a | n/a | n/a | .440 | .400 | .420 |
| Eggs, all, per dozen | n/a | n/a | n/a | .471 | .456 | .574 |
| Milk, all, per cwt ⁵ | n/a | n/a | n/a | 14.90 | 12.00 | 12.00 |

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

United States Rice Stocks Up

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2006, totaled 37 million hundred weight (cwt), up 18 percent from the total on August 1, 2005. Stocks held on farms totaled 1.55 million cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 35.9 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for nearly 77 percent of the total rough rice; medium grain accounted for 21 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 2 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 3.94 million cwt, 8 percent below a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 3.33 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 616,000 cwt of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

United States Rice Stocks

| | On Farm | Off Farm ¹ Farm | Total All Positions |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | (Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt) | | |
| Date | -----Rough Rice----- | | |
| August 1, 2005 | 2,185 | 28,822 | 31,637 |
| March 1, 2006 | 30,865 | 80,416 | 111,281 |
| August 1, 2006 | 1,553 | 35,825 | 37,378 |
| | -----Milled Rice----- | | |
| August 1, 2005 | --- | 4,300 | 4,300 |
| March 1, 2006 | --- | 4,572 | 4,572 |
| August 1, 2006 | --- | 3,944 | 3,944 |

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

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